

2-28-1866

## Letter from Anne Whitney, to Adeline Manning, 1866 February 28

Anne Whitney

Wellesley College Archives

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Wed. Evng. Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> - 1866

Now have I an evng. bef. me -  
 & the joy of being here in the  
 north Chamber (wh. is also  
 Sarah's & my sleeping room this  
 winter) at the corner desk, sitting  
 alone with you. If my head  
 did not feel a little cloudy!  
 I must sip a lemon to night.  
 I was happy in receiving a call  
 from Mr. Father (yesterday)  
 who looked as cheerful & full  
 of life as ever. It had not been  
 a merely jolly thing to go back  
 with him & take you on board  
 by surprise. Now you are here  
 in arms & said nothing!  
 only I shd. have felt the  
 beating of your heart. But "let  
 the poets dream such dreams",  
 I who live like another Ethiopian  
 in Ethiopian soil can't imagine  
 in any wise such. I am not  
 satisfied with the face of the  
 woman - what it has gained  
 in strength of feature it has



lost in July & expression. &  
I will not have done with  
it until I am better satisfied.  
Mrs. Silken & son were at  
Monday & wants me to invite  
the "Club". Wh. will just about  
fill the rooms. She has a  
high opinion of the quality  
of the Club & thinks I shall  
hardly care to have many  
others. I think then, nothing  
preventing, if I have it at  
all - for ~~the whole thing~~ may  
be suddenly abandoned. That  
the reception may come off  
in the latter half of March.  
Lizzie's painting lessons absorb  
nearly all her time - so that,  
except when company is in, I  
am alone. Mrs. Hemmway  
brought in some New York  
friend Monday. & asked me  
to come when there today &  
see an old friend. I went.  
& she took me to her bed  
chamber - where stood Vittoria.



Colonna - you remember it - in  
the Jarvis collection. Today  
it disappointed me somewhat.  
I think what attraction it had  
for me today was mainly from  
the recollection of its former  
charm. I don't think it a  
great painting - its chief merit  
was in its authenticity as  
a portrait - & that she ~~thinks~~<sup>says</sup>  
there is a strong doubt about.  
But she admires the picture  
very much - & when she asked  
me if she ~~should~~<sup>should</sup> get it - I said  
yes - it does not make any  
difference - but I think it  
does & must tell her so tomorrow.  
There are some faces that  
can be read of all - living faces  
I mean - the great qualities  
have had great tools & material  
to work in, & the master's  
touch <sup>in the features</sup> is easily recognizable -  
but how many there are that  
may be read either way - when  
you come to know that a



fine spirit has wrought behind  
a dubious fabric you recognize  
its lines at once, & contravene  
how a well-chilled face  
slips away from grace the  
moment it belongs to nobody  
in particular or to an mere  
person. Well - so with pictures.  
Thinking of this Vittoria portrait  
& separating all idea of Vittoria  
Colonna from it - I try to see  
if she may not be a vulgar  
bored dowager who grew  
fat feeding on lampreys &  
stewed nightingales.  
Adieu my beloved, for she have  
gone to that party, it was  
just what you wd. have  
enjoyed -

Thurs. Evng. Just then Ed<sup>d</sup>. Cairns  
& Miss Corrie came in & my  
services were wanted for a game.  
So away went my horse for  
quite a trot with you & Bright  
I bring you a tired brain - Perhaps  
afternoon, I went to the rehearsal



but those concerts begin at 3  
& last not much over an hour.  
This P. M. I ~~thought~~ <sup>intended</sup> been to the  
one of a series wh. begin at 4  
& last, I don't know how long.  
for at 6 when I left. There  
remained a great deal more  
to do. The music is very  
fine. But the treat &c. together  
with a previously not very good  
condition and is one. I shall go  
to bed almost exhausted &  
awake right side up I trust.  
I did go to Church last Sunday-  
& Mr. W's sermon was intended  
to meet the occasion. I think  
the trouble was mainly in  
myself but it was not greatly  
interesting. The thought did not  
atten itself with the simplicity  
& simplicity wh. great thoughts  
or such things demand, wh. great  
thoughts always enforce. & the  
manner struck me as once  
before being a somewhat painful  
stream after effectiveness. But  
the words said. Woe it is fine.



were it so great? & as I am in  
a minority of the sea.

Johnson isn't worth letting  
about. I only hope the split  
will grow wider & wider, till  
no union between him & a  
republic is possible. A more  
diurnal specimen of a Phrosus  
has not appeared since Phrosus  
was drowned in the red sea.

There are good stories of  
Bucher - & now if he doesn't  
look about him to some  
purpose I shall think the  
man's brain is softening.

I am grieved to hear of the  
poor Sarah's sufferings - 5th  
av. Hotel Luvorn is a queer  
place on wh. to reside.  
I hope warm weather will  
help her - then she can take  
more out door air - go to the  
baths. the sea. I seriously think  
that if I were in that sort  
of hospital case, in which nothing  
seemed to afford any permanent



relief. I shd. Correll & Cleinoyent.  
The worst that one has to en-  
tend with in so doing is the  
howling of the regulars.

Now I wish I might see yr.  
pictures. Fr better gives a  
favorable report on yr progress.  
I must tell you I cd. but laugh  
the other day in the privations  
of my slave, when Fr wrote  
told me that he wished to get  
at a piece of event history viz.  
whether I had expressed an un-  
favorable opinion concerning yr  
head of Sarah bef. I don't know  
when - but the idea was that  
Fr judgment of the performance  
had been warped by Anne.  
When those that had the best  
right to know held but one  
& that a favorable opinion  
of it. I did nothing to retract  
but told him soundly what I  
had thought. But now,  
my little one, do not think



the world is altogether given  
over to him - foolery because  
that it likes & prizes. I am  
very sure I shall like these  
later songs of Jesus. & if I  
shd, not - it cd. be, as the opinion  
of one, only a small argument  
against them.

Now - I am going to  
bed - The weather is of the  
breedfellust. The ground  
does not freeze - but you do  
melted & wonder at the increasi-  
bility of the south. Give my  
love to all & thank Mr. Mother  
for the invitation I cd. not  
accept.

Beloved & sweetest when  
shall we see each other again?